



BOARD OF EXAMINERS FOR SOCIAL WORKERS

4600 Kietzke Lane. C121, Reno, Nevada 89502 775-688-2555

MINUTES OF BOARD MEETING

April 14, 2006

The meeting of the Board of Examiners for Social Workers was called to order by President Randy Reinoso at 9:33 a.m. at the Office of the Attorney General, Grant Sawyer State Office Building, 555 E. Washington Avenue, Suite 4700, Las Vegas, Nevada. There was a simultaneous telephone conference conducted at the Office of Attorney General, Mock Courtroom, 100 N. Carson Street, Carson City, Nevada which was also available to any public member who wished to observe or participate. This meeting was originally noticed as a teleconference but due to technical difficulties staff in Carson City participated by telephone. President Reinoso noted that the meeting had been noticed properly and that the four members present constituted a quorum for the purposes of the Board meeting. A motion was made by Amy Ellwood and seconded by Ann Coleman to approve the agenda as presented.

Members Present

Randy Reinoso, LSW President in Las Vegas
Ann Coleman, LASW Secretary-Treasurer in Las Vegas
Amy Ellwood, LCSW Member in Las Vegas
Anne Rhu, Public Member in Las Vegas

Members Absent

Gil Johnstone, LASW Vice President

Staff Present

Rosalind Tuana, Executive Director in Carson City
Henna Rasul, Deputy Attorney General in Carson City

Consent Agenda

A. Licensure/Internship Applications

1. Ratification of Approved License Applications (Attachment 1)
2. Ratification of Denied License Applications (Attachment 1)
3. Ratification of Approval of Internship Applications (Attachment 1)
4. Ratification of Denied Internship Applications (Attachment 1)

B. Continuing Education

1. Ratification of Approved Continuing Education Programs
2. Ratification of Denied Continuing Education Programs

ACTION: A motion was made by Anne Rhu and seconded by Amy Ellwood to approve the consent agenda as presented. Motion PASSED unanimously.

Licensure, Intern, and Application Issues

Review previous agreement to underfill social work positions with social work students who are in their last year of study and make determination if the Board can consider similar agreements with other public agencies.

The Executive Director provided a copy of an agreement that the Board entered into with the Division of Child and Family Services (DCFS) and the School of Social Work at the University of Nevada, Reno in 2000. This agreement allowed certain supervised students who were in their last year of school to under

fill a social worker position as a public service intern. DCFS was experiencing a lack of social work applicants and this agreement was intended to help the agency fill positions using this category. Due to the current workforce shortage, the Executive Director asked the Board whether the Board would consider similar agreements with the School of Social Work and other public agencies. After discussion, a motion was made by Anne Rhu and seconded by Amy Ellwood to consider similar agreements to with other public agencies and the school of social work.

Disciplinary Matters

Disciplinary Report

The Executive Director reviewed the disciplinary report with the Board. She noted that the Board currently has 22 complaints. There is a disciplinary hearing set for May 12, 2006.

Deputy Attorney General Report

Henna Rasul indicated that she have little else to add. The formal complaint in the matter to be heard on May 12 has been resent to the respondent to ensure that he received proper notice.

Legislative and Regulatory Issues

Approve Public Workshop minutes held March 16 in Reno and March 17 in Las Vegas, to consider proposed regulations changes.

The Board reviewed the minutes for the March 16 Workshop prepared by Gil Johnstone and the March 17 Workshop prepared by Ann Coleman. Amy Ellwood recommended a clarification of her comments under miscellaneous comments to clearly reflect "that Nevada is typically low and sometimes last in the national reports for health issues. All the professional schools are trying to increase their enrollment". A motion was made by Ann Coleman and seconded by Anne Rhu to approve the March 16 Workshop minutes and the March 17 Minutes as amended. Motion passed unanimously.

Review, discussion and action on comments received on the proposed regulation changes

The Board members noted that the workshop participants had a number comments and questions on various matters, many of which were not directly related to the regulations. The information provided was helpful to the members and in some cases allowed the Board to clarify some misconceptions with the participants who were present. After review of the comments and further discussion the Board determined that it would make the following changes to the proposed regulations:

1. Change the definition of Cultural and Linguistically Appropriate Services to read that the services means service or care provided by licensee that is effective, understandable, and respectful and is provided in a reasonable manner compatible with the client's cultural beliefs, practices, preferred language and literacy within the perimeters of the resources available.
2. Delete the definition of "moral character"
3. Add to approved continuing education programs that participation on an ethic panel or institutional review board be considered for up to 2 hours to meet the ethics requirement.
4. Add to the requirement for approval of a continuing education that the course must be supported by evidence based research.

A motion was made by Amy Ellwood and seconded to Anne Rhu to approve the proposed regulations as amended and forward them to the Legislative Council Bureau for review. Motion passed unanimously. The Executive Director reminded the Board that there is a workforce shortage issue and noted that it is possible that a request for a license for person without a social work degree could be requested in the session.

Set public hearing date to consider adoption of proposed regulations

A motion was made by Ann Coleman and seconded by Amy Ellwood to hold the public hearing to consider adoption of the proposed regulations on June 9, 2006.

Review, discussion, and action on proposed legislation for the 2007 session

The Executive Director reported that all bill drafts for the 2007 legislative session if the agency is part of Executive Branch must be submitted by May 1. She noted that the Board had submitted a bill in the 2003 session which never made it out of the Committee on Commerce and Labor. She suggested that the Board may wish to review the 2003 bill to determine if it wished to submit some of the same request. After discussion, President Reinoso determined that the Board should review the previous bill provision by provision to determine what to submit with this draft. After review, the Board determined that it would submit a bill with the following changes:

1. clarify the definitions of social work and the level of license,
2. a housekeeping provision to clarify that the Board can hire staff and attorneys,
3. a provision for licensure of a applicant who holds a degree from a foreign school
4. an inactive status,
5. a new level of licensure at the master's level,
6. a provision for practice of an out-of-state licensee in times of emergency or disaster
7. clarify that a Board member may be held liable for any act he performs in good faith in carrying out his Board duties,
8. clarify the that application files are confidential,
9. clarify reasons that the Board can deny a license,
10. clarify non-renewal notice requirements,
11. raise fees, and
12. add social workers to NRS629.

A motion was made by Ann Coleman and seconded by Amy Ellwood to approve the submission of a bill draft with the above provisions to the Department of Administration for the 2007 legislative session. Motion passed unanimously.

Review, discussion, and action regarding ASWB recommendation for possible legislative or regulatory changes regulatory changes regarding licensure in times of the public emergencies and licenses issued in error

The Board noted that it had addressed the issue of public emergencies in the previous discussion. After further discussion, the Board determined that it was not interested in submitting a bill draft or a regulation change regarding a license that was issued in error at this time.

Association of Social Work Boards (ASWB); Federation of Associations of Regulatory Boards (FARB); National Association of Social Workers (NASW)

ASWB Examination Pass Rates for 2005 for Nevada and Nationally

The Board reviewed the ASWB Examination pass rates for 2005. Nevada continues to have a pass rate above the national levels; however, this year the pass rate was not as high as in previous years. The Executive Director noted that more applicants are coming from out of state. The chart reflects all applicants not just applicants that graduate from Nevada Universities.

Discussion and recommendation to Governor for replacement of Board members whose terms expire in June, 2006.

Ann Coleman reported that she had call the names on the list of licensee who names had been referred to her for possible recommendation to the Governor for replacement of the two Board member who terms will be ending June 30, 2004. All expressed interest and were pleased that she had contacted them. The Board noted that it would prefer members either in the North or Rural since 4 members are currently from Las Vegas. They also noted the need to have advanced practitioners on the Board. Ann indicated that of the people she contacted were from the North or the Rural areas of the state and four of them held advanced practitioner licenses. After further discussion, a motion was made by Amy Ellwood and seconded by Ann Coleman to submit all of the names of the advanced practitioners to the Governor for consideration. Motion passed unanimously.

Presiding Officer's Report

President Reinoso indicated that he still feels like he is in learning curve but he is excited about the future. He plans on hold a Board retreat to set some goals for the Board.

Board Operations

Approval of Minutes: December 9, 2005; January 13, 2006; and March 3, 2006

The Executive Director noted that there was an error on the December 9 meeting notes under approval of minutes. The minutes that were approved were the September 16 meeting not the July 16 minutes. A motion was made to approve the December 9, 2005 as amended and the January 13, 2006 minutes as presented. Motion passed unanimously.

The Executive Director noted that the March 3, 2005 minutes were not completed in time for this meeting. A motion was made by Anne Rhu and seconded by Ann Coleman to table the March 3, 2006 minutes until the next meeting.

Financial Report

Year to Date Financial Report

The Executive Director requested that this matter be tabled until the next meeting.

Executive Director's Report

Matters related to office management

The Executive Director noted that this is a very busy time for the Board. As of April 13 the Board has 2076 licensees of which 598 are Clinical Social Workers. Currently the Board has 187 open applications including 35 applications for Clinical Social Workers. She noted that this was higher than normal. She reported that since the last Board meeting she has attended another workforce meeting at the University and gave a supervisor workshop at Rural Clinics in Carson City.

Personnel Matters

The Executive Director indicated that the parttime person in the office may be leaving in May as she is graduating from the university and may be moving out of the area. Since finances for the Board has improved, the position may revert back to a full-time position in the new fiscal year since the work load for the staff seems to be increasing.

Other Matters of Interest to the Board

The Executive Director reported that she had no other matters to report at this time.

Public Comment

There was no public comment.

Adjournment

ACTION: A motion was made by Amy Ellwood and seconded by Ann Coleman to adjourn the meeting at 11:40 a.m. Motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully prepared by

Rosalind Tuana
Executive Director